LITTLE LIE DETECTORS STUDY SHOWS BABIES CAN SENSE SHADY BEHAVIOUR {page 23}

CANADA SAYS GOODBYE TO KYOTO PROTOCOL {page 8}

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News worth sharing.

▶ The Calgary Stampeders have locked up Canadian-born tailback Jon Cornish, pictured here celebrating after scoring a touchdown against the Montreal Alouettes in October.

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Stampeders sign Cornish

A CFL source requesting anonymity said yesterday the Stampeders have signed New Westminster, B.C., native Jon Cornish to a contract extension. Team officials will make a formal announcement at a news conference today. Story, page 29.

Scalding water caused death

▶ Province pledges full investigation into Calgary-area incident that killed disabled Albertan ▶ Case similar to one nearly 8 years prior

Intensely hot water drawn for one of Alberta's most vulnerable citizens to bathe in ultimately led to a death, provincial officials have revealed.

Details of what exactly happened were difficult to decipher during a news conference called yesterday, but officials did confirm the fatal incident took place at a facility run by a Calgary-area contract agency associated with the Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) program.

"We can't undo what's happened, but we are doing all we can to ensure the safety of adults who receive support from the PDD program," said George VanderBurg, provincial minister of seniors.

But critics lashed out at the government both for delaying a public revelation of the fatal incident — the victim suffered burn injuries in late October and died roughly a month later — and for dropping the ball after a similar tragedy in 2004.

Identity unknown

- Provincial officials said they refused to specify the individual's age, gender or what facility they were staying in out of respect for the family.
- In Alberta, 9,400 citizens receive assistance through the Persons with Developmental Disabilities program.

In that incident, 90-year-old Edmonton resident Jennie Nelson died after suffering severe burns to her lower legs during a bath at the Jubilee Lodge Nursing Home.

"It's an unnecessary death," said Harry Chase, a critic on seniors' issues for the Alberta Liberals. "It's not acceptable then, it's not acceptable now."

A judge presiding over a fatality inquiry into Nelson's death issued 30 recommendations, including the installation of anti-scald devices, which automatically shut water flow off when temperatures exceed 41 C, on all tubs in care facilities.

Representatives for both Alberta Health and Alberta Seniors indicated at the time that the judge's recommendations would be incorporated into new rules for water temperature safety introduced later in the year.

Neither VanderBurg nor Jeff Nish, chair of the PDD Calgary region community board, could offer a firm answer yesterday on whether anti-scald devices had been installed in tubs used at local facilities.

"All I can say is what we're doing now," Nish said. "What we are doing going forward is reminding them (the agencies) of the seriousness of this and making funds available for the procuring and installing of the anti-scalding hardware." ● JEREMY NOLAIS

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Shared bikes may be stored in winter

Shared bikes could be rolling in Calgary with a proposal coming before council, but they could be rolling back off the streets in the winter months.

As part of the city's broader cycling strategy, a report is coming forward to a city committee tomorrow, which will explore the feasibility of introducing a public bike-share system to Calgary. The system, which the city said would cost $2.5 million to launch and $1.1 million annually to operate, would consist of a network of bikes placed in key areas of the city where people can pay to rent them for a certain period of time.

According to the report, Calgary's bike-share system would be removed from the street to accommodate snow removal. Sean Carte, a car-free commuter and owner of BikeBike, said that, as it stands, cycling in the winter is difficult.

"If they wanted the bike share to operate all year round, there would need to be a hand-in-hand real effort and money behind roads clearing roadways and bike lanes," he said. "I think there's a real culture change that needs to happen."

Ald. Brian Pincott said he thinks it makes sense to store the system during the colder months because many are scared of cycling in the winter. "We've got to get over this notion that winter is a barrier to cycling."

KATIE TURNER

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

▶ The Heart of the Beast statue created in honour of Occupy Calgary is trucked away from Olympic Plaza as crews and media look on yesterday.

'Occu-sculpture' removed right before artist's eyes

Mysterious creator D.H. offers few insights about piece
City hopes to find permanent home by spring

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

City officials removed a sculpture created in honour of the Occupy Calgary movement from Olympic Plaza yesterday, but the piece's creator hopes to see it return one day.

"My suggestion was there was a number of individuals down here for 55 days and maybe every year it could be down here for those 55 days," said the mysterious D.H., referring to a demonstrator camp that was set up Oct. 15 and dissolved at the popular downtown plaza prior to a court-ordered deadline last Friday.

The mysterious artist broke his media silence for just a minute yesterday as crews loaded his work, officially titled Heart of the Beast but referred to by others as "Occu-sculpture," onto a flatbed truck and transported it to a warehouse. D.H. confirmed that he is locally based and does support the Occupy movement but offered few other clues about what led him to create the 10-foot-high structure that was either transported to or assembled in Olympic Plaza overnight Friday.

Beth Gignac, the city's manager for arts and culture, plans to meet with D.H. tomorrow to discuss a permanent home for the piece.

"We need to take some technical reviews of the piece and decide whether it's an outdoor piece," she said. "We want to work with them, and in order for us to do that we expect to have respectful, professional conversations."

Heart of the beast

- Efforts to remove the Heart of the Beast sculpture began around 9 a.m. yesterday, and city crews were greeted by a number of Occupy supporters expressing anger that they and members of the public were not consulted first.
- One individual even laid down in front of a backhoe being used to remove the piece but he was quickly ushered away by police.

1 news

Study: Toddlers are likely to experience a reaction to the first shot of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, but serious reactions are rare. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web

U.S. presidential hopeful Rick Perry's new campaign video has incited nearly 700 reply videos, many of which are parodies. Video at metronews.ca/video

NOT HEARD ON THE RADIO

Media groups steer clear of Checkstop alerts

Some Calgary radio and TV news broadcasters do warn motorists of speed traps, but there is an "unspoken rule" that the same practice is not acceptable for Checkstops, according to a local personality.

James (Newsboy) Callsen of X92.9 said his organization sent out a reminder memo yesterday advising staff that Checkstop locations should not be read out over the airwaves.

"Some people do call them in, thinking they're doing their buddies a favour, but it's just one of those things you don't talk about," Callsen said.

Other radio organizations contacted by Metro confirmed similar policies.

METRO

Reader tweets

We asked: Is there a double standard when posting and/or retweeting speed traps versus Checkstops? Here's what you had to say:

- **@McRitchTwit:** definitely a double standard... Even if traffic shows on radio they do the same thing though. Announce radar but not Checkstop
- **@TheJamesAsh:** Tweeting about speed traps makes people slow down but announcing checkstops help drunk drivers get away. Let them get caught.
- **@Trucker_Ty_:** the joy of social media, you can't restrict what people say. A slippery slope to "Big Brother" society!
- **@kalireadwin:** Both are probably not good, but speed doesn't always mean dangerous driving. Drunk driving, on the other hand, is.
- **@tristanbauer:** what about those who are drunk, check and see there is a check stop mentioned as subsequently don't drive?
- **@OxOx_Lindz18:** Most radar traps are cash-cows. Checkstops are out to protect us. Let them get caught for there careless mistakes.
- **@lunerose:** no, I don't believe you should RT Checkstop locations....drinking and driving is far more dangerous than speeding
- **@missusfabulous:** neither checkstops nor speed traps should be broadcast. The laws are there for a reason.

Checkstops: To tweet or not to tweet?

Calgary police say they have no authority to stop motorists from tipping off others about their anti-impaired-driving setups

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

"Checkstop. Top of 17th Avenue midday whaaat," reads one tweet.

"A 1 p.m. Checkstop on NW Stoney? Seriously," questions another frustrated motorist.

Hundreds of messages like these are popping up on Twitter and other social media sites in Calgary each week and police wish motorists would stop and think before alerting potential drunk drivers to dragnets aimed at taking them off the road.

"When you look at the greater good, when we see how many people are killed every year and how much carnage is attributed to impaired driving, are you really helping by tweeting the locations?" said spokesperson Kevin Brookwell. "The very person you may be tweeting could be the person that a half-hour later runs through an intersection and kills a family on their way home."

METRO FILE

▶ Calgary police wish people wouldn't broadcast where Checkstops are but say the matter is out of their hands.

Some individuals believe notifying the public of police-deterrence efforts is actually more valuable than nabbing the handful of guilty drivers that pass through the average Checkstop.

"It's about making people more aware that the police are out doing their job and they shouldn't be out there drunk driving," said Doug Machan, creator of Uautoknow Traffic Alerts, which provides real-time Twitter updates on the latest speed-trap and Checkstop setups to thousands of motorists in Calgary and other western cities every day.

When asked whether he would yield to police concerns about his Checkstop alerts, Machan responded by saying, "It's a free country."

Speed-trap updates

- While police don't believe broadcasting Checkstop locations is a smart move, they do regularly provide updates on their speed-enforcement locations. Spokesperson Kevin Brookwell said photo-radar enforcement serves primarily as a deterrent, whereas Checkstop setups do include an enforcement component that aims to take dangerous drivers off the road immediately.
- Nine individuals have been killed in crashes this year where alcohol was believed to have played a role.
- Police are currently running daytime Checkstops four days a week leading up to Christmas and will also continue with routine evening enforcement. The Calgary Police Service is the only in Canada to conduct Checkstops 52 weeks a year.

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FATALITY

No word on cause of crash

Calgary police are still investigating a crash on Deerfoot Trail yesterday that claimed the life of a 21-year-old man.

Police responded to Deerfoot Trail and Airport Trail Northeast at about 11 a.m. after they said a southbound vehicle went off the right side of the road into a ditch and struck a lamppost. The engine was torn from the frame and came to rest 30 metres from the vehicle, police said.

The man was the sole occupant of the vehicle and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police don't know if speed or alcohol was involved.

Anyone with information is asked to call 403-266-1234.

METRO

Silver Springs station closing

The Calgary Police Service has decided against renewing the lease on the building that housed the Silver Springs Community Police station, and it will close for good on Dec. 14.

The CPS said high costs and relocation of some units to the new Westwinds facility made the closure possible.

Police are reminding area residents that Market Mall, District 3 and District 7 stations still serve the area. District 7 personnel will continue to patrol the district as well, police said.

METRO

From scrap to ski-bikes

KATIE TURNER/METRO

▶ Andreas Moser shows off his handmade ski-bikes, which he builds from junked bike frames and skis. He says he rides his ski-bike three or more times a week in winter.

Calgarian turns hobby, passion for cycling into small business

KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

A Calgary man is bringing a whole new meaning to winter cycling after making a hobby out of scrap skis and bicycles.

An avid cyclist, Andreas Moser says he was looking for a new way to get on a bike year-round when he stumbled on the idea of making a ski-bike.

"I'd seen it done before and didn't want to spend any money on it, so I just took old parts and came up with a really good plan, and they work amazing," he said.

Last winter, Moser began repurposing old bike frames and skis to create a sled-like conveyance that allows him to zip downhill with control.

"Just taking basic scraps that would normally go to the dump.... There's other use for steel and the other components," he said.

Along with the environmental benefit of recycling parts destined for the trash, Moser said there's a health benefit as well.

"I realized the benefit of having to walk back up the hill. You do that 20 times, it keeps you in shape," he said.

It's all downhill

- **Andreas Moser** has built about a dozen ski-bikes since last year.
- **To test or purchase** a bike, go to pinkbike.com/buysell/983833.

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It's official: We're out of Kyoto

New climate deal to be signed in 2015, and would kick in after 2020

Canada is pulling out of the world's only binding climate treaty.

Environment Minister Peter Kent says Canada is withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol.

"We are invoking Canada's legal right to formally withdraw from Kyoto," Kent said outside the House of Commons.

"This decision formalizes what we've said since 2006, that we will not implement the Kyoto Protocol."

Canada signed Kyoto in the late 1990s, but neither the current Conservative government nor their Liberal predecessors met targets. Kent says the move saves Canada $14 billion in penalties for not achieving its Kyoto targets.

"The Harper government has imposed a death sentence on many of the world's most vulnerable populations by pulling out of Kyoto."
MIKE HUDEMA, GREENPEACE CANADA

Kent says he would not be surprised if other countries follow Canada in pulling out of Kyoto.

At the Durban talks, Canada joined Russia and Japan in refusing to sign on for a second round of Kyoto commitments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bear. In Vancouver

▶ An officer, holding a tranquilizer gun, watches a black bear perched on top of a garbage truck in downtown Vancouver yesterday.

JAMES GEMMILL/VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cub to be set free in the wild

It appears the black bear cub got trapped into the garbage canister in North Vancouver, and climbed on top of the bin when the vehicle came to a stop at a busy intersection in downtown Vancouver. The cub was tranquilized and taken to be released in the wild.

It's splitsville for 'gay penguin couple'

Buddy and Pedro, once one of Toronto's hottest "it" couples, have broken up amid pregnancy rumours and a budding relationship with what those on Team Pedro will undoubtedly call a femme fatale.

It only took Buddy 72 hours to bond with Farai, a female penguin he was matched with on Nov. 19, after being separated from Pedro. Handlers at the Toronto Zoo split up the pair out of concern the same-sex bond would hamper breeding efforts.

Pedro has yet to get lucky, but zoo officials say it's not for a lack of trying.

"Pedro is very ready to go, per se, but his prospective mate Thandiwey is a little shy," Tom Mason, the zoo's curator of birds and invertebrates, said yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ African Penguins swim in their enclosure at the Toronto Zoo yesterday.

Web sensation

The story of the birds took on a life of its own when the two African penguins, dubbed Toronto's "gay penguins," became an Internet sensation.

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- Lloyd Mall

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- Carry Drive Plaza
- Medicine Hat Mall

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- 10032 - 100th St.

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- Bower Place Shopping Centre
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U.S. requests drone from Iran

CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We have asked for it back. We'll see how the Iranians respond."
BARACK OBAMA, U.S. PRESIDENT

President Barack Obama is pressing his request that Iran return the U.S. surveillance drone captured by the country's armed forces.

Obama said he would not comment "on intelligence matters that are classified." But he said during a White House news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that the U.S. wants the top-secret aircraft back.

Iran TV reported earlier that Iranian experts were in the final stages of recovering data from the RQ-170 Sentinel, which went down in Iran earlier this month.

Tehran has cited the capture as a victory for Iran and displayed the nearly intact drone on state TV. U.S. officials say the aircraft malfunctioned and was not brought down by Iran.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia executes woman

Saudi authorities have executed a woman convicted of practising magic and sorcery. The Saudi Interior Ministry says in a statement the execution took place yesterday, but gave no details on the woman's crime.

The London-based al-Hayat daily, however, quoted Abdullah al-Mohsen, chief of the religious police who arrested the woman, as saying she had tricked people into thinking she could treat illnesses, charging them $800 per session.

The paper said a female investigator followed up, and the woman was arrested in April 2009 and later convicted in a Saudi court.

It did not give the woman's name, but said she was in her 60s.

The execution brings the total to 76 this year in Saudi Arabia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrians go on strike

- **UN: 5,000 killed by regime in bid to stop uprising**
- **Government pushes ahead with municipal elections**

UGARIT NEWS GROUP VIA APTN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This image from amateur video made available by the Ugarit News group yesterday purports to show security forces in Daraa, Syria.

The death toll from Syria's crackdown on a nine-month-old uprising has exceeded 5,000 people, the top UN rights official said yesterday, as Syrians closed their businesses and kept children home from school as part of a general strike to pressure President Bashar al-Assad to end the bloodshed.

Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said at least 300 children are among those killed in the al-Assad regime's attempts to stamp out the revolt, and that thousands of people remain in detention.

Speaking at the United Nations, Pillay said she told Security Council members of the increase in deaths during an afternoon briefing, and said she recommended that the council refer Syria to the International Criminal Court, the permanent war crimes tribunal, for investigation of possible crimes against humanity.

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice said Pillay's briefing "underscores the urgency of the present moment," and urged the UN Security Council to take concrete steps to bring the violence to an end.

Al-Assad has shown no little sign of easing his crackdown, despite mounting international pressure, including a recent spate of economic sanctions from the EU, the Arab League and Turkey, that are punishing the Syrian economy, a dangerous development for the government in Damascus.

Now, the open-ended strike by Syrian businesses also takes direct aim at Syria's already ailing economy. It is designed to erode al-Assad's main base of support — the new and vibrant merchant classes, who have benefited in recent years as the president opened up the economy.

If the economy continues to collapse, al-Assad could find himself with few allies inside the country, where calls are growing by the day for him to step down. The authoritarian president is already struggling under international isolation and suffocating sanctions.

It is difficult to gauge the strength of the strike because the regime has banned most foreign journalists and prevented local reporters from moving freely. But there were signs it was being widely observed in particular in centres of anti-government protest: the southern province of Daraa, the suburbs of the capital, Damascus, the northwestern region of Idlib and in the restive city of Homs.

Clashes continue

- **Activists said a new round** of clashes between Syrian troops and army defectors began on Sunday with a major battle in the south and spread to new areas yesterday, raising fears the conflict is spiralling toward civil war.
- **The British-based** Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says new clashes between soldiers and defectors were reported yesterday in Idlib in the north, and that fighting continued for a second day in southern Daraa province. Four members of the security forces were killed as a result of the clashes there, the observatory said.
- **At least 16 people** were reported killed nationwide yesterday, most of them in Homs, according to various activist networks.

The opposition wants the strike to remain in force until the regime pulls the army out of cities and releases thousands of detainees.

"Only bakeries, pharmacies and some vegetable shops are open," said one resident of Homs who asked that his name not be published for fear of reprisals.

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No burka during citizenship oath

It's a legal matter: Immigration minister Oath-takers must show entire face Rule takes effect immediately

Prospective Canadians are no longer allowed to wear veils while they utter the oath of citizenship, the federal government announced yesterday.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney told a news conference in Montreal that new Canadians will have to remove any face-coverings, such as the Islamic niqab or burka, while they swear the oath of citizenship. The new rule, which requires oath-takers to show their entire face, takes effect immediately.

Kenney said it's not only a question of "deep principle" for someone to show their face while taking the oath in front of their fellow citizens; it's also a matter of legal concern.

"I don't know how we can verify that someone whose face is covered is actually taking the oath that the law requires of them," Kenney said.

"This is a public act of witness in front of your fellow citizens, in front of the law — and you should be willing to show who you are."

Kenney said he received complaints from citizens, MPs and citizenship judges to the effect that it's difficult to ensure individuals whose faces are covered are actually taking the oath.

He said those concerns prompted him to raise the issue during a recent meeting of citizenship judges in Ottawa.

"I asked (the judges) if this was a widespread problem and I saw a lot of them said that it was," Kenney recalled.

Kenney also defended the rule by saying it has nothing to do with religious freedom, and referred to a pilgrimage to Mecca by Muslim women as an example that supports his point.

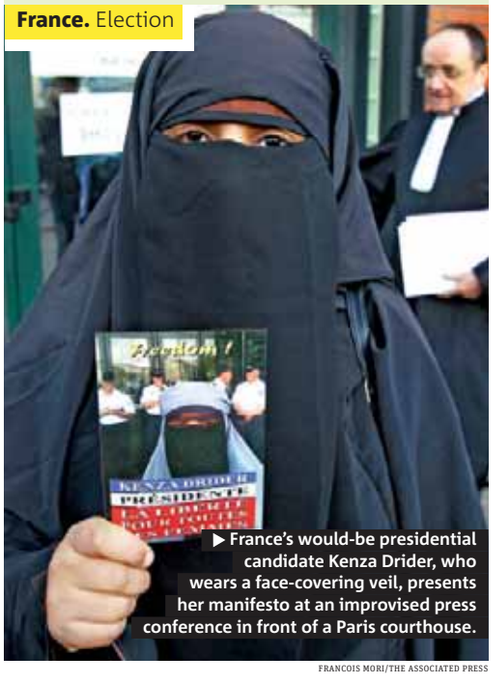
"When Muslim women do the Haj ... they're required not to wear a veil, they're required to show their face," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heated debate

- The location of the announcement was not without symbolism. Quebec has had heated debates in recent years over so-called "reasonable accommodation" — how much should Canada bend to accommodate newcomers.
- While in the rest of Canada, it's often raised by conservatives, in Quebec the issue is frequently raised by the left-leaning and nationalist Parti Quebecois.

France. Election



▶ France's would-be presidential candidate Kenza Drider, who wears a face-covering veil, presents her manifesto at an improvised press conference in front of a Paris courthouse.

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Her presidential manifesto

Kenza Drider rattled off 30 mostly left-leaning proposals — including capping salaries and devaluing the euro — as well as her main cause, repealing the ban on wearing face-concealing niqabs in public.

Chain sticks to decision to pull ads

Lowe's is planning to stick by its decision to yank its ads from a reality TV show about American Muslims despite growing opposition the home improvement chain is facing.

Lowe's stopped running commercials during All-American Muslim after a conservative group emailed advertisers to ask them to stop advertising on the show. The group said the program, which follows the lives of Muslim families living in the Metro Detroit area, was "propaganda that riskily hides the Islamic agenda's clear and present danger." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9,200 On Twitter, actor Kal Penn began directing people to a petition in support of the show. By yesterday afternoon, there were about 9,200 signatures.

Sex and the subway

Toronto couple continued act on platform after being kicked off train

It gives a whole new meaning to riding the rocket.

A man and woman have been charged with engaging in a lewd act after a couple had sex on both a subway car and platform — in the middle of the afternoon.

The incident happened aboard a southbound train around 2:30 p.m. Sunday. A rider saw the couple — described as intoxicated and "old enough to know better" by Toronto Transit Commission spokesman Brad Ross — having sex and just couldn't ignore it.

"I wasn't there, thankfully, but from what I understand a customer did activate the passenger assistance alarm," said Ross. "They saw this couple engaged in I guess what would best be described as a lewd act."

The train stopped and a TTC guard boarded and kicked the couple off at Spadina station. But they clearly weren't satisfied.

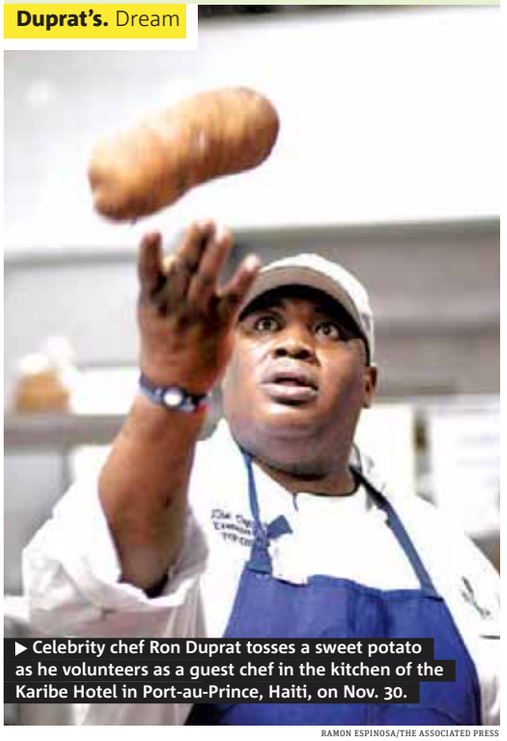
"Alcohol being a factor, they I guess decided they hadn't completed their journey and continued on the platform," Ross said.

A video apparently shot by a fellow passenger shows the train stopped as a man lies on top of a woman, moving rhythmically with his bare buttocks exposed.

Ross said the video appears authentic, although he couldn't access it from his TTC work computer.

Shortly after the train stopped at Spadina, police and EMS arrived on the platform. The couple was charged and transported to hospital due to their inebriation. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Duprat's. Dream



▶ Celebrity chef Ron Duprat tosses a sweet potato as he volunteers as a guest chef in the kitchen of the Karibe Hotel in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Nov. 30.

RAMON ESPINOSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cooking up a plan

Ron Duprat, a Haitian-American professional who starred on Top Chef: Las Vegas, wants to build a culinary school in Haiti, to train chefs who can work at a future restaurant showcasing Haitian staples such as rice, beans and goat.

Military medic jailed for sex assault

A Canadian medic who performed physical examinations of recruits at a southwestern Ontario military centre has been sentenced to nine months in prison for sexual assault and breach of trust.

A military judge sentenced James Wilks, 51, yesterday after he was found guilty in October of one count of sexual assault and four counts of breach of trust.

Phillip Millar, a lawyer for one of the victims, plans to launch a civil suit on behalf of his client, who was 17 at time.

"A criminal trial just punishes, but it doesn't really compensate the victim," he said.

"She had a dream of being in the military, her family has a rich tradition of being in the military, she was on a native program that was supposed to encourage natives to join the military and ... (what) happened to her derailed her career."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Women the head of gift giving in the family: Poll

- 80 per cent of households polled say women do the holiday shopping
- 43 per cent of women shop online, up from 34 per cent last year

HYOSUB SHIN/THE ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Women shop at a Toys R Us in Atlanta, Ga., on Nov. 24.

Santa is a woman.

That's according to BMO's 2011 Holiday Spending Outlook.

BMO says 80 per cent of households polled said the female head of family will do the majority of holiday shopping, and this year, more and more will do it online.

BMO's annual survey revealed a substantial increase in the number of women using the Internet to shop for gifts. The figure jumped to 43 per cent from 34 per cent last year. At 49 per cent, men are still somewhat more inclined than women to shop online — but the gap is narrowing.

The survey polled 1,508 Canadians and is considered accurate within plus or minus 2.5 per cent 19 times out of 20.

"There are a number of factors behind the increase in online shopping among Canadian women," said Su McVey, vice-president of BMO Bank of Montreal.

"The ability to quickly and easily research products and compare prices and even arrange for delivery at the click of a mouse or the touch of a key pad makes it a remarkably convenient approach for busy, budget-conscious and multi-tasking women," McVey said.

McVey noted that advances in technology such as Wi-Fi, smartphones and e-readers have helped spur this growth.

"People of all ages are becoming much more comfortable with the technology and with the security behind online shopping," said McVey.

Regionally, married people polled in Atlantic Canada were more likely to say the female head of household does the majority of shopping — 87 per cent.

Online shoppers who don't want to pay priority shipping fees should make their online purchases by or before Dec. 15, BMO said.

That's the date when most retailers, especially those offering free delivery, require your order if you want a guarantee that Santa's packages will arrive by Dec. 24. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
- 126.86 (11,907.89)	- $0.71¢ ($97.48¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
- $1.64 US ($97.77 US)	$3.254 US (- 6.3¢ US)
	Gold
	$1,668.20 US (- 48.6 US)

Canada can prosper amid massive global debt, says Carney

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Mark Carney

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says the advanced economies of the world are facing a massive challenge with debt, but Canada may be in a position to take advantage.

Speaking to a business group in Toronto, the central banker warned yesterday that a historic era of deleveraging — paying off debt — is being forced upon European countries and the U.S. The task is so large that Carney compares it to what occurred during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"As a result of deleveraging, the global economy risks entering a prolonged period of deficient demand," Carney said. "If mishandled, it could lead to debt deflation and disorderly defaults, potentially triggering large transfers of wealth and social unrest."

Carney said that Canada's relative virtue throughout this era of deleveraging puts the country in a "privileged position."

"Our strong position gives us a window of opportunity to make the adjustments needed to continue to prosper in a deleveraging world."

Carney added Canadian companies in particular must seize the moment, before it disappears.

Businesses can benefit from one of the world's soundest banking systems in Canada, super-low interest rates and their own sound balance sheets flush with cash. As well, firms in the resource sector can place a safe bet that commodity prices will remain elevated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIRELESS SERVICES

Bell Mobility in hot seat over sports rights

The national telecommunications regulator is putting Bell Mobility in the penalty box for securing exclusive rights to hockey and football content for mobile devices.

The wireless phone company gave itself a significant competitive advantage by signing deals with the National Hockey League and National Football League, the CRTC ruled yesterday. "Canadians shouldn't be forced to subscribe to a wireless service from a specific company to access their favourite content," Konrad von Finckenstein, chairman of the CRTC, said in a statement.

The decision followed a complaint from Telus Communications last January after it failed to secure the rights, first from the two sports leagues and later from Bell.

The NHL content includes games and video highlights, while the NFL content includes primetime games and playoff games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airline sued for charging the disabled

Disabled travellers who had to pay extra for seats on Air Canada could be in line for compensation as part of a class-action lawsuit authorized in Quebec.

A judge has approved a suit against Air Canada on behalf of disabled Canadians who had to pay extra for seats over a three-year period from Dec. 5, 2005 to Dec. 5, 2008.

Quebec City law firm BGA Barristers & Solicitors LLP made the announcement public yesterday.

The suit covers disabled individuals and also those with a functional disability related to obesity who faced extra charges for seats adapted to their condition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GETTING ALL WRAPPED UP IN THE HOLIDAYS

SHE SAYS ...

METRO

For couples who intend to spend the holidays together, 'tis the season for family feuds and hurt feelings.

December is arguably the busiest time of the year, so when you move from being an "I" to a "we," this already-overscheduled month becomes even more complicated. With emotions running high, there can be all sorts of issues attached to deciding where and with whom to spend your yuletide time.

Do we commit to one set of parents? Divide our time between each other's family get-togethers? Try blending our families into one big (and potentially disastrous) celebration? Or do we split up and spend the holidays apart?

With all of the parental pressures and guilt-tripping the season brings, sometimes the most desirable course of action is to ditch everyone and spend December 25th alone together, eating Chinese food and watching a movie.

Married couples and those in long-term relationships can easily burn themselves out trying to fulfil calendars full of family commitments. Forget your holiday wish list, all you really want for Christmas is some extra time, or perhaps a couple of clones.

"...the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is 'endearing.'"

The unfortunate reality for adult children is that you will never really be able to please the numerous sets of parents, step-parents, in-laws and extended family members. In striving to meet everyone's expectations you'll stress yourself out and turn into an argumentative and unpleasant grinch.

But, hey, isn't that what the holidays are all about?

Deciding how you'll celebrate the season will ultimately depend on a variety of factors — religious beliefs, geography, work commitments, money — but if you want to spend the holidays with your significant other, you'll have to make some compromises.

It's more than likely that at some point in your life you'll have to spend the holidays with a family that isn't your own. Yes, unfamiliar familial surroundings can be difficult: the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is "endearing." They'll want to watch A Christmas Story even though you ALWAYS watch It's a Wonderful Life, and you'll be irrationally devastated.

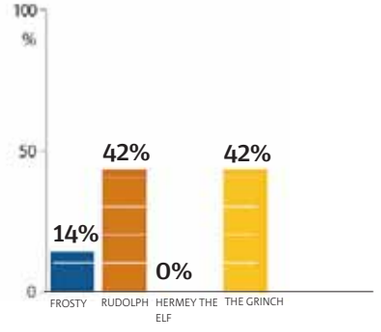
Since every family has their own unique festive customs, you'll have to adjust your own expectations if you want to get through the holidays without weeping into your eggnog. But in letting go of some of your established traditions, you'll give yourself the opportunity to start making some new ones. And remember, it's actually a nice thing when too many people want to spend time with you.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Who would win in a holiday cartoon showdown?



Local tweets

- **@propositionWes:** @calgarytransit are you guys trying to grow tomatoes on your buses? Please turn the heat down! We are all wearing winter coats! #yyc
- **@defcandy:** Has anyone heard if Target is still on track to open their #yyc stores in 2013?
- **@MalebSweety:** @tavisford @nenshi As a #yyc resident, I can say that I was not asked if I wanted this sculpture. Occupiers should have used proper process.
- **@stevenrfreeman:** Don't listen to Adele while in heavy traffic. You will start crying. #rushhour #yyc
- **@rckdck:** Handyman Tip 2: Use insulated work gloves when working outside in winter! Once warmed Jerrys hands in my pits cause he forgot #yyc #calgary
- **@kaitcurs:** What a wonderful place Stephen's Avenue is during the holidays! Christmas shopping has never been so beautiful. #yyc
- **@EmpireofDisdain:** Sidewalks are pathways ... Not a f--n' test to see how well you can weave! I will throw an elbow at you #rant #dontdo #yyc

Daily Zoom

LEE GRISMER/WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oh, hello, gecko — nice to meet you

New creature found in Mekong every 2 days!

This psychedelic gecko is one of the latest species discovered on Hon Khoai island, Mau province, in southern Vietnam.

The gecko is among 208 new species described last year by scientists in the Mekong River region of Southeast Asia, according to the WWF.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mekong River

- The region spans Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan. The report reveals an average of one new species discovered every two days.
- 28 reptiles were newly discovered in 2010, including an all-female lizard in Vietnam that reproduces via cloning.

Despite findings many species are threatened

The Mekong's wildlife population is under threat from rapid, unsustainable development and climate change. One tragic indicator of the decline of biodiversity is the recent extinction of the Javan rhino in Vietnam, which was recently confirmed by WWF.

METRO

"Mekong governments have to stop thinking about biodiversity protection as a cost and recognize it as an investment to ensure long-term stability."

STUART CHAPMAN, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR OF WWF GREATER MEKONG

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Bird flies into action

Director Brad Bird takes the leap from family films into the explosive world of live-action entertainment with Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol How he adapted his technique

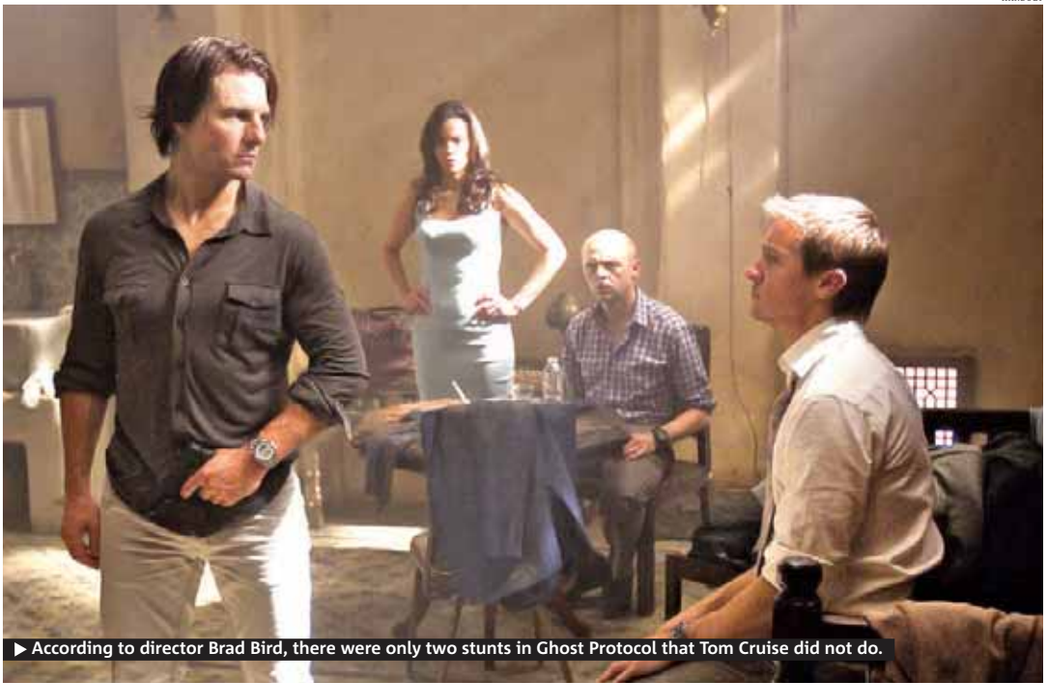
STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Brad Bird was not the most obvious candidate to take over the reins of the Tom Cruise multimillion-dollar Mission: Impossible film franchise.

While the filmmaker's Oscar-winning background stands on its own, it is mostly comprised of not only animated entertainment but specifically family-oriented favourites like Ratatouille and The Incredibles.

Now with Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol about to hit IMAX theatres this Friday (it opens on regular theatres next Wednesday), Brad Bird discussed leaping from kiddy cinema to explosive live-action entertainment.

HANDOUT



According to director Brad Bird, there were only two stunts in Ghost Protocol that Tom Cruise did not do.

What was the biggest challenge of going from choreographing animation to live-action?

If I had gone from hand-held animation, which my first film, The Iron Giant, was to live-action, it would've been a bigger leap but the last two films I did, The Incredibles and Ratatouille, were dimensional; there was CGI so you could move the camera through space and you could light it like you would any film so I got very comfortable with that.

So it actually felt fairly natural to move to real people and things.

Certainly The Incredibles had its share of action too. What do you love about spy films?

They're sleek and they're exotic and fast and kind of explosive. They can go from very quiet suspense to all hell breaking loose just like that. This movie is definitely in that realm and that's one of the reasons that I wanted to do it.

I understand that Tom Cruise did all of his own stunts in this — true?

There's only two that he didn't do and in both of them the stuntman got hurt so he was very wise in not doing those two. But all of the ones on the Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world) where you see him climbing around, that's him. People are going to say, 'oh, that can't be him' but it's him.

Brad Bird talks Mission: Impossible

- **Bird on tourists posting photos of Tom Cruise hanging from the side of Dubai's Burj Khalifa during filming:**
"At first we were mad because the very first stuff (we shot went) online and we were like 'We can't show this stuff before the movie comes out'. But then we thought this proves that he's there, he's not a special effect."

- **Bird on Ghost Protocol being the biggest of the Mission: Impossible franchise:**
"I don't think it's the most expensive but it is the biggest. We had to be very clever with how we did things but it is the biggest and it's enormous – it was a challenge to do absolutely."

Barbie, with tattoos

Nicki Minaj and Katy Perry soon to be made into dolls

In case you didn't want your young daughter growing up to idolize a blonde, unhealthily proportioned woman who owns convertibles, Jeeps and veterinary clinics, she can now instead idolize skimpily dressed, alcohol-loving celebrities with multicoloured hair, who also own everything.

As TMZ reported, longtime Barbie-creator Mattel is planning to launch dolls for Nicki Minaj and Katy Perry. The dolls are said to include striking similarities to the real pop princesses like the tattoo on Nicki Minaj's left arm. What little girl wouldn't love that?

Minaj has garnered a following of fans who refer to themselves as "Barbies" in honour of the singer's fondness for crazy blonde wigs and the colour pink. Both Minaj and Perry are known for breaking the mold when it comes to fashion. Usually they're both spotted wearing outfits Barbie wouldn't be caught dead in. Nicki Minaj's Barbie, at least, is reportedly set to be auctioned off for the charity Project Angel Food, with bids starting at $1,000. Katy Perry's Barbie did not comment on whether she will be auctioned off for charity.

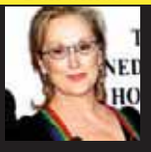
METRO

JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES

Nicki Minaj

2 scene

Box office



Meryl Streep may be considered one of the finest actresses around, yet she says she believed her career was over 20 years ago.

Streep, now 62, tells Vogue magazine she was offered three different roles to play a witch after turning 40. She believed it meant women in her age group were "grotesque on some level," and told her husband "It's over."

Streep graces the January cover of Vogue magazine for the first time and jokes in the magazine she's the "oldest person" to do so.

Next, she plays the former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the new film Iron Lady. She'll portray Thatcher from age 49 to 85. The film opens January 13.

The January issue of Vogue goes on sale Dec. 20.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clooney's Descendants named best film by LA critics; Fassbender wins best-actor prize

DVD Releases

Rise of the Planet of the Apes
Genre: Action
Director: Rupert Wyatt
Stars: James Franco, Andy Serkis, Freido Pinto

The world needs another Planet of the Apes movie like a circus acrobat needs a banana peel. After five original films, two TV spin-offs and Tim Burton's failed 2001 "reimagining," the franchise has fleas. Yet Rise of the Planet of the Apes defies expectations (and fears), and two words explain why: Andy Serkis. The British magician behind the digital sorcery of Gollum and King Kong gives his finest performance yet as Caesar, the brainy chimp who leads a primate revolution against enslaving humans. Serkis commands the screen, combining his malleable features with the motion-capture technology he excels at. His Caesar conveys more emotion than any of the human characters. Director Rupert Wyatt's version, scripted by Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver (who previously teamed for The Relic), pays tribute to the original series without being bound by it. Not surprisingly, that story's object lesson about how slavery is all in the eye of the beholder doesn't resonate as strongly now as it did in the 1960s. PETER HOWELL

Kung Fu Panda 2
Genre: Animation
Director: Jennifer Yu Nelson
Stars: Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Jackie Chan

Director Jennifer Yuh Nelson's animated comedy sequel comedy manages to have its fortune cookie and eat it, too, since it delivers both more action and fireworks (literally), while at the same time filling in the tragic back story of Po, the accidental panda warrior voiced by Jack Black.

This is a franchise that already benefits from glorious design. Panda 2's richly painted Chinese landscapes are a refreshing change from the usual sci-fi pursuits. In the first movie, Po's task was to learn martial arts from Master Shifu (voiced by Dustin Hoffman). This time out, Po must put his new skills to work battling evil peacock Lord Shen (Gary Oldman). Before you can say peacock feathers, Po reteams with his Furious Five buddies: Tigress (Angelina Jolie), Monkey (Jackie Chan), Mantis (Seth Rogen), Viper (Lucy Liu) and Crane (David Cross) to stop Shen. PETER HOWELL

Running with rodents

Jason Lee talks about the surreal experience of talking to stuffed animals and bean bags for the new Alvin and the Chipmunks film

NED EHRBAR
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

HANDOUT

▶ Jason Lee reprises his role as chipmunk manager Dave Seville in Chipwrecked.

Jason Lee was more than happy to reprise his role as Dave Seville, the human minder and manager to a furry pop trio in Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. But the third film in the franchise provided some new challenges for the actor — namely filming on a Carnival cruise ship. "I mean, we were only there for a week, but my idea of a getaway is not being on a cruise ship with thousands of people, personally," Lee says.

"You eat all day and all night, and you're out at sea. It's quite surreal, the cruise thing."

While Lee admits the process has gotten easier with the first two Chipmunks films under his belt, there's a surreality to working with virtual characters that never really goes away.

"It's always a bit surreal when you're looking at pieces of tape and stuffed animals and tan beanbags," he says, adding that more dramatic scenes — like an emotional reunion with his furry kids — can be especially jarring. '"Theodore, I miss you!' And it's a beanbag in your hand. It's kind of strange."

Not only is it kind of strange, but being the lone human wrangling six unruly critters — Alvin, Simon and Theodore as well as their female counterparts, the Chipettes — can add some extra layers of concentration for an actor — especially when it comes to remembering where they're standing.

"The running action, looking for the Chipmunks, grabbing them and that kind of stuff" poses the biggest challenges, Lee says. "It's the eye-line marks. When the volcano is erupting and you have to yell really loud and stuff is falling down, you're trying to remember which one is Jeanette. That stuff gets a little tricky, at times."

But despite the challenges of making a movie with animated chipmunks, Lee is thrilled to have some entries on his resumé for his children to enjoy.

"I always kind of set out to just work as an actor and try to do as many different things as I possibly could — and not be too selective or not be too careful," he says.

"I think just working is fun. I like that I've done kids' stuff, I like that I've done more dramatic stuff, I like that I did all the Kevin Smith stuff. I like that I've bounced around a lot.

"But certainly as a dad, it's nice to have movies that my kids can watch, because they certainly aren't watching Chasing Amy."

Heading back to television

While former professional skateboarder Jason Lee got his start as an actor in films — mostly for Kevin Smith — it was his TV work that made him a star, especially on the four-year run of My Name is Earl. But while his most recent small-screen gig, the cable show Memphis Beat, didn't last, he's eager to get back on TV. "I'm actually developing some things now, and that's been a lot of fun," he says. "I've been meeting with writers and trying to get some things on the air, as a producer and as an actor. But, in the meantime, I've been having a lot of fun on [the sitcom] Up All Night. That's been a good show to be working on."

From Goth to glam

Pauley Perrette is a lot like her NCIS character Abby

It figures that Pauley Perrette would excel playing forensic scientist Abby Sciuto, the Goth lab rat on CBS' crime procedural, NCIS.

On the job in her high-tech lair, Abby is an information magnet and a bloodhound for clues to help crack the latest case with a link to the Navy or Marine Corps. And in the process, she's brainy, beautiful, charmingly quirky and totally gung-ho — which is to say, a lot like Pauley Perrette.

In its ninth season, NCIS (which airs today at 9 p.m. EST) remains a smash hit, averaging 20 million viewers a week. And even among its crazy-popular ensemble (including Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherly, Cote de Pablo, Sean Murray, David McCallum and Rocky Carroll), Perrette is a standout, having landed at the top of a recent Q Score roster measuring TV stars' fame and likability among viewers. But in person, as herself, Perrette can even upstage her performance as Abby. Hear her jazzed accounts of a life that led from her Atlanta upbringing to a role on one of TV's hottest shows: She describes her early-on aspirations: "to work with animals, be in a rock 'n' roll band or be an FBI agent."

She recounts her scramble in New York, where she moved to study at John Jay School of Criminal Science but worked several jobs at once to make ends meet. And she reports how, along the way, she broke into show biz: "A kid in coat-check told me, 'I know this director who would really like you.' I started booking commercials like craaazy."

Perrette is an unapologetic cheerleader for her show — and her character. "I'm the biggest Abby Sciuto fan on planet Earth," she announces. "I mean, I didn't invent her. I just have the honour of playing her. She fascinates me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KRISTIAN DOWLING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

▶ Pauley Perrette is forensic scientist Abby Sciuto in NCIS.

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Success 'beyond anyone's wildest dreams'

Arcade Fire coming off monumental year Triumphs continue to bring attention to Montreal music scene

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Arcade Fire pose with their trophies at the 2011 Juno Awards earlier this year.

It was a year in which Arcade Fire burned brightly.

The coveted Grammy Award for Album of the Year, honouring their latest release The Suburbs, kicked off a slew of honours won by the Montreal-based indie band in 2011.

By the end of the year, they had also swept the same categories at the Juno, Polaris and Brit awards, and taken home anglophone album of the year from Quebec's L'Autre Gala de L'ADISQ.

After giving an international shout-out to their Montreal hometown at the Grammys, they also found time to say thanks to their local fans in September with a free outdoor show downtown, which packed in around 100,000 people.

And that gratitude is about to continue into the new year as the band says it's going to invest in helping young artists while also working on their next undisclosed recording project.

"Their success has gone beyond anyone's wildest dreams — even them, I believe," says Dan Seligman, the creative director and co-founder of the Pop Montreal indie music festival, which hosted the outdoor concert.

Seligman, who has booked the band often during the 10 years of his festival and in other gigs, says any attention Arcade Fire gets benefits the local music scene.

"The hope is that it'll continue to help other bands get attention and become successful, touring musicians and have careers."

The award haul sparked a brief amplification of the buzz around the band, which first attracted the indie scene's spotlight to Montreal around 2004-2005 with the release of their first album, Funeral.

"It sort of forced a lot of people to sit up and listen and maybe pay attention a little more to what was happening in the smaller circles of music."

MUSIC CRITIC STEVE GUIMOND ON ARCADE FIRE'S 2011 AWARD HAUL

The New York Times profiled them while Rolling Stone even dubbed Montreal "the new Seattle" at the time.

Leah Greenblatt, a senior editor at New York-based Entertainment Weekly magazine, said that even though they had been around for a while, Arcade Fire's Grammy win caused jaws to drop. Even the band looked stunned as TV cameras caught their reaction.

"I was shocked," Greenblatt said, explaining that as a longtime writer on the indie music scene she had often seen her favourite artists ghettoized into indie or alternative music categories.

"I just assumed that Arcade would get the alternative album of the year," she said, speculating that besides the quality of the album, the Grammys were trying to appeal to a younger audience this year.

"In some sense it was a really old-fashioned record because it was sort of open about being ambitious and about being thematic. They weren't too cool to try. They were trying to make a big record and they succeeded."

Arcade Fire declined requests to discuss their big year. Their publicist said they were taking a break after a gruelling tour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Return of J.R.

Original cast members filming reboot to popular series

TONY GUTIERREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Larry Hagman played J.R. Ewing in Dallas, which aired from 1978 to 1991.

J.R. Ewing has returned to Dallas.

With Larry Hagman reprising his role as the conniving Texas oilman, filming is underway at locations all over the city for TNT's new television series Dallas, which will also see the return of Patrick Duffy as J.R.'s brother Bobby and Linda Gray as J.R.'s ex-wife Sue Ellen, along with a new generation of Ewings.

And, of course, the spotlight also returns to the city itself, with its distinctive skyline rising from the prairie.

"We're trying to give the show a real sense of place and Dallas has a real personality," said location manager John Patterson, adding, "It's a city that does things in a big way. That's part of J.R. and part of what we try to give the show — a sense of the city, which is big, very well done, shiny, new and looking toward the future."

TNT has ordered 10 episodes of the series, set to air in summer 2012.

Filming for the series, entirely shot in Dallas, began mid-October and is expected to wrap in late January.

"There was just no way we were going to film anywhere else," said executive producer Cynthia Cidre, who also wrote the pilot for the new series, a "mix of the old world and the new world."

The original series, which aired from 1978 to 1991, enjoyed popularity around the world as viewers tuned in to watch the scheming Ewing family.

As the plot twisted and turned season after season, the series contributed to some of TV's most memorable moments. After Bobby died in a season cliffhanger in 1985 after being hit by a car, the entire next season was revealed to have been a prolonged dream sequence when his former wife, with whom he had reconciled, wakes up to find him alive, taking a shower.

The 1986-87 season then mark's Duffy's return to the cast after a year-long absence.

And, of course, there was the cliffhanger in 1980 that left the whole world in suspense.

The catchphrase "Who shot J.R.?" became part of the common vernacular as viewers waited to find out who had fired on J.R.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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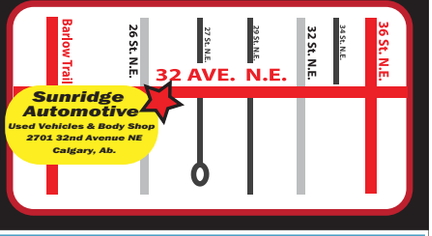

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It's complicated: With simple songs

AMA's new artists of the year Hot Chelle Rae lay the groundwork for longevity by focusing on fundamentals

MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Hot Chelle Rae will be headlining their own Beautiful Freaks tour starting in February.

It's easy to get a Hot Chelle Rae song stuck in your head. It's not so easy to write one.

The breezy lyrics and infectious melodies that have come to define the pop band might seem simple, but guitarist Nash Overstreet says there's an art to coming up with uncomplicated hooks that compel everyone to sing along.

"When you really get into it and you investigate the whole writing craft, you realize how difficult it is to write something so simple and so memorable that everybody in the country can know it as soon as you sing two lines from it," said Overstreet, 25.

"We've learned so much through this process, honing that skill and learning from producers and co-writers. We've just had a ball doing it."

"There's a lot of sacrifices you make for the better of the song," added drummer Jamie Follese, 19. "I won't necessarily get to play the most crazy drum part, but it makes the song a lot better."

The four friends from Nashville, Tenn., formed Hot Chelle Rae six years ago. They burst onto the scene this year, selling over 2 million copies of their smash hit Tonight Tonight, and dominating radio airplay with their follow up single I like it like that. They've been touring non-stop and were recently named new artist of the year at the American Music Awards. The band released a new album, Whatever, Nov. 29.

Whatever is Hot Chelle Rae's sophomore effort. It includes collaborations with hip-hop duo New Boyz on I like it like that, Demi Lovato on the ballad Why don't you love me, and rapper/producer Bei Maejor on the song Radio. Lead singer Ryan Follese, 24, even plays kazoo on the track Downtown Girl.

Maejor has worked with artists including Ne-Yo, Trey Songz, T-Pain and Wiz Khalifa. He thinks fans are connecting with Hot Chelle Rae's music because they push the limits and use strong, familiar melodies.

"I heard a quote before ... 'Simplicity is the essence of elegance.' That means that simple is dope," said Maejor. "There's definitely a hard line between making it simple and catchy and simple and stupid, and I think they definitely make it simple and catchy." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"There's a lot of sacrifices you make for the better of the song. I won't necessarily get to play the most crazy drum part, but it makes the song a lot better."
NASH OVERSTREET

Swift success

Being exposed to the vibrant music community in Nashville has proved beneficial for the group.

- Ryan and Overstreet met country crossover star Taylor Swift in 2009 when they co-wrote and produced the rap spoof Thug Story she performed with T-Pain for the CMT Music Awards.
- This summer, Hot Chelle Rae got a major boost when Swift asked them to be special guests at one of her four arena shows in Los Angeles.

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Hulk Hogan is not a homosexual, OK?

Wrestler grappling with allegations from ex-wife Claims they are untrue

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Hulk Hogan, who filed a defamation suit against ex-wife Linda Bollea, says he's just trying to defend his reputation.

"After the four-year crazy divorce I thought I'd heard everything I could hear in the courtroom," the wrestling star tells Us Weekly.

"Then all of a sudden she says I abused her, that I was violent. She told everybody that I was a homosexual."

Hulk Hogan

Hogan adds that his real problem with Bollea's accusations is that they aren't accurate.

"If any of that was true, I would admit it, and (if) I was a homosexual I would embrace it," he says.

"If you're going to say I'm something that I'm not to try to ruin my career and my livelihood, I have to answer her back."

Look, Linda. Just because at one point in his life, your ex-husband loved Spandex, tan skin, Fu Manchus, rippling muscles, had a huge boa scarf collection, ripped his shirt off at the drop of a hat and pinned sweaty men to the ground for a living, does not mean he was in the closet while you were married.

If it were someone else's husband, however, I'd be a tad worried.

Celebrity tweets

@JohnCleese

Nearly the end of another gruelling week of talking about myself. It's a good job that I'm so interesting...

@juliebenz

whenever someone says "we're only giving gifts to the kids this holiday season" my inner child screams "NO! I want presents too!!"

@russellcrowe

90 sweaty minutes in the gym. Some days you love it, some you hate it. Today was all love.

@SarahKSilverman

My dog has to think the elevator's a time machine, right? There's no other possible explanation.

A theft-filled weekend for Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan had a drama-filled weekend, and not just because of her leaked Playboy spread.

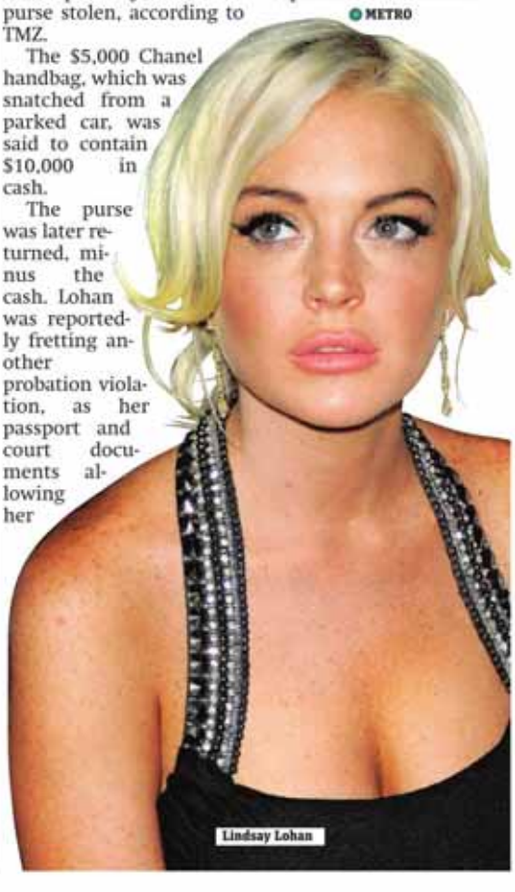
While partying in Hawaii, the troubled starlet reportedly had her purse stolen, according to TMZ.

The $5,000 Chanel handbag, which was snatched from a parked car, was said to contain $10,000 in cash.

The purse was later returned, minus the cash. Lohan was reportedly fretting another probation violation, as her passport and court documents allowing her to travel were also in the purse, but were returned safely.

Which leads us to a very pressing, unrelated question: Do drug dealers accept traveller's checks?

METRO



Lindsay Lohan

Kutcher's resolutions are set

Ashton Kutcher is looking to get a jump on his New Year's resolutions, and given the year he's had it's not such a surprise.

"I'm gonna do my resolution in December this year," he says in a Warner Bros. Studio interview.

"I'm resoluting for December so that when I come to January, and everybody else is having to go through the grind, I'm already ahead of it, I've already done it. It's like taking the PSATs. I'm just trying to stay ahead of the curve. There is a curve."

METRO

Ashton Kutcher

Babies are skeptics

New study shows that even infants can detect when you're acting shady They'll start to tune you out So remember: just because they're little, doesn't mean they aren't on to you

CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK PHOTOS

Don't confuse their cuteness — babies can tell when your actions don't add up.

You can't trick babies. They'll distrust you.

Researchers in psychology at Concordia University in Montreal have found that infants just over a year old can already get a bead on who is reliable and who is unreliable. The babies will quickly start ignoring cues from those who are unreliable.

"Even babies detect when someone's behaviour is not conventional," says Diane Poulin-Dubois, a professor of psychology at Concordia University. "It seems that they then turn off the 'learning switch' that typically makes them learn from that person."

Poulin-Dubois and colleagues conducted a study with 60 babies between 13 and 16 months of age.

The wee ones were divided into two groups — those with a reliable adult and those with an unreliable adult — and shown tasks they could mimic. In the first task, testers looked inside a container and expressed excitement and delight before handing the container to the baby. In the reliable group, there was a toy inside. In the unreliable group, the container was empty. This was repeated several times. For the second task, the same adult showed the babies a touch-on light. The tester placed it on a desk and switched it on by leaning forward and using the forehead. This was repeated three times before passing the light to the infant. Infants who had been tricked in the first experiment were far less likely to imitate the adult. Over two attempts, 34 per cent of infants in the unreliable condition mimicked the adult, versus 61 per cent of infants in the reliable condition.

"Babies are setting down the groundwork for a lifelong skill — remaining vigilant about who is an expert and who is not," says Poulin-Dubois.

The study was published in the journal Infant Behaviour and Development.

Learning

Babies learn from older humans. But would they copy a robot?

Robots A team of researchers from the University of Washington found babies will imitate a robot if they have previously seen the robot playing with someone. Turns out, it's more important to babies that robots are sociable than that they look human.

3 life

Trends

Twenty-two-year-old Russian Kristina Rei thought her 'thin' lips made her unpretty, so she decided to spend $5,000 (around 100 injections) in order have the pillow lips of cartoon character Jessica Rabbit. The nail technician is admitting she, like a growing number of women, has an addiction to it. METRO

Born smaller than soda cans, tiniest babies are growing up healthy

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Real world applications

Video game helps research into Alzheimer's, diabetes and cancer

A team of McGill University researchers has come up with a way to make playing video games an entirely productive pursuit.

Computer scientist Jerome Waldispuhl, along with collaborator Mathieu Blanchette, developed a video game similar to the popular puzzle game Tetris — except there's more to it than just stacking blocks.

The game, called Phylo, involves arranging sequences of coloured shapes that represent human DNA.

By analyzing the DNA sequences, scientists are able to gain new insight into the genetic basis of diseases like Alzheimer's, diabetes and cancer.

Online

Popular game

Registered The game has enjoyed some popularity, with more than 17,000 people registering online since its November 2010 launch.

"Originally, I think a lot of people came because they are interested in participating in something that contributes to science," Waldispuhl said in an interview.

"But the goal is really to expand that to casual players."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yoga pose.
Bakasana: crane pose

DSALAS

1 Squat down with your inner feet a few inches apart keeping your heels on the floor. Separate your knees wider than your hips and lean the torso forward, between the inner thighs. Stretch your arms forward then bend your elbows; place your hands on the floor and the backs of the upper arms against the shins.

2 Snuggle your inner thighs against the sides of your torso and the shins into your armpits and slide the upper arms down as low onto to the shine as possible. Lift up onto the balls of your feet and learn forward even more, taking the weight of the torso onto the backs of the upper arms.

3 Press your hands against the back torso, pushing the back up toward the ceiling as you press the backs of the upper arms down. Clasp the hands and press the arms down on the support as you lift the thighs toward the ceiling. If you want to go further, squeeze the legs against the arms press the inner hands firmly to the floor and on an inhale, straighten the elbows. Keep the head in a neutral position with your eyes looking to the floor.

STEPHANIE KNUTSSON, AT BODYISM YOGA WWW.BODYISM.COM

Thoughts on ... Presence

LET IT PASS. How often are you really present? I don't mean just there in the flesh, I mean there with your heart and soul and eyes and everything that you are and more.

The art of presence is being able to watch your thoughts as an observer. These thoughts are like clouds that obscure the clear blue sky, and yet they are not the sky. Let them pass like clouds in the sky.

When lost in habitual thinking and feeling it pulls you away from the moment and the people you want to connect with. Being present is often the most valuable gift you can give yourself and others.

NATASHA DERN IS THE HOST OF THE BUDDHA LOUNGE RADIO SHOW.

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Best Health Minute

BONNIE MUNDAY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

Eat, Think and Be Merry In the December issue of Best Health, our registered dietitian columnist Sue Mah put together some excellent tips for navigating the holiday events and their appetizer trays and buffet tables. A big part of it, she says, is eating mindfully — that is, really taking time to focus on what you eat, and more importantly, how you eat. Here are a few ways.

1. Do a walkabout
Before you even put a single piece of food on your plate, take a stroll around the buffet table and check out all of the options. Mentally classify them as 'must try' or 'can do without them today.' On your plate, put a few bites of a small portion of the 'must try' foods — making sure there are two types of vegetables — plus one 'must try' dessert.

2. Chat
After your first plate of food, you may feel like going back for seconds. Instead, sit back and take a planned break to catch up with friends. It takes about 20 minutes for your stomach to tell your brain you're full. After 20 minutes, ask yourself if you're really still hungry.

3. Keep your distance
Avoid standing near the party nibbles unless you have incredible willpower. When food is easily within reach, chances are you'll pick up a bite or two, or three. Let's say that two hors-d'oeuvres have 100 calories. By the time you've eaten a few, you have had the equivalent of a small meal.

Get 5 more tips in the December issue of Best Health, on newsstands now. And find our roundup of actual-size party snacks, along with their calories and fat grams. It may just help you get through party season with no added pounds.

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THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Chocolate Peanut Butter Covered Apples

Preparation:

1. In a small saucepan over medium-low, heat cream and peanut butter until bubbling. Remove pan from heat and add chocolate bits. Stir until completely smooth. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.
2. From bottom, push a pop stick up into core of each apple. The stick should go deep enough to be sturdy, but leave enough exposed to serve as a handle.
3. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Place peanuts in bowls, if using.
4. One at a time, using sticks as handles, dip apples in chocolate mixture. Use a spoon to scoop up extra chocolate and pour over apples to help coat sides. Allow extra chocolate to drip back into pan. Dip coated apples into nuts. Stand apples, stick in air, on lined baking sheet. Refrigerate until firm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients:

- 90 ml (3 oz) heavy cream
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) creamy peanut butter
- 175 g (6 oz) bittersweet chocolate bits
- 4 apples (any variety)
- 4 wooden pop sticks
- Chopped salted peanuts (optional)

European café feel in Calgary

Bistro at Art Central serves a pricier lunch Some items win, others don't

LUNCH RUSH

DAN CLAPSON
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Sitting in this quaint little place by its wood shuttered windows, I couldn't help but feel like I was somewhere in Europe.

Which led to my next thought: Why did I leave my beret at home today?

The Bistro at Art Central
100 7th Ave. S.W.
403-262-0282
artcentralbistro.ca
Reservations: Yes
Quick solo lunch: Yes
Social lunch: Yes
Client negotiations: Yes
Co-worker lunch: Yes
Price range: $15 - $16
Rating: 3.5 out of 5

DAN CLAPSON

▶ Prosciutto, Pear and Cambozola Ravioli ($19).

Then, the LRT train would pass by and I remembered where I was: 7th Ave., Calgary, Alta.

As far as lunch goes in its general vicinity, the menu at The Bistro is a bit on the pricier side.

My date had the Bison Meatloaf ($18) that sat atop a potato puree with a red wine demi-glaze. A combination of flavours that did not disappoint.

I decided to try the Prosciutto, Pear and Cambozola Ravioli ($19), which came topped with a honey roasted tomato chutney. The ravioli itself were absolutely delicious, but I found the chutney was a bit too overpowering since there was already some substantial sweetness coming from the pear. C'est la vie.

THE DRUNK-DRIVING ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLESMACPHERSON.COM

As a hostess, how do I deal with drinking and driving for my guests at my Christmas party?
Nervous hostess

ISTOCK

▶ This guy is doing the right thing. There's a drink in his hand, so therefore the keys should not be.

Dear Nervous Hostess,

Good on you for asking the important question! I don't need to tell readers the importance of this subject. I personally think it is just as delicate a subject no matter who this concerns. As a butler I have had to deal with this on several occasions.

Firstly, try to be prepared ahead of time. Suggest a designated driver at your event (this person can drive numerous guests home as needed) and/or have some cash on hand to send someone home by taxi if required.

After doing some research, the auto insurance website progressive.com had some great suggestions:

1. If the person is a close friend, try to use a soft, calm approach at first. Suggest that he's had too much to drink and it would be better to let someone else drive or to take a cab.

2. Be calm.

3. Try to make it sound like you are doing them a favour.

4. If the person is somebody you don't know well, speak to his friends and have them make an attempt to persuade him to hand over the keys. Usually, he will listen.

5. If the person is a good friend, spouse or significant other, tell him that if he insists on driving, you are not going with him. Tell him that you will call someone else for a ride, take a cab or walk.

6. Locate the person's keys while he is preoccupied and take them away.

Most likely, he will think he's lost his keys and will be forced to find another mode of transportation.

If possible, avoid embarrassing the person or being confrontational.

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL CHARLES AT ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA.

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Unit 101, 77 Castleridge Blvd NE

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Great Tel Mobility:
Unit 101, 4908 17 Ave SE
Dollar Store:
Unit 5, 12 Castleridge Dr NE
Rocky Mountain Computer Repair:
Unit 307, 3200 Glenmore Tr SE
Mobile Zone:
Unit 101, 2640 52nd St NE
Express Computer Store:
Unit 210, 9737 MacLeod Tr SW
Ascot Business Systems:
Unit 104A, 3716-61 Ave SE
Rojin Bakery & Food Market Inc:
Unit 8, 4105 4th St NW
Sol Optix: 628 B 17th Ave SW
M&C Food Mart:
1412 9th Ave SE
Stanley Park Grocery:
4649 MacLeod Tr SW
Centex Petroleum:
Unit 808, 19th St SE
Hing Wah Imports:
312 Centre St SE
IC Computers: Unit 122, 3715 51st St SW

YEAR END TAX TIPS

FUN AND FRUGAL

LESLEY SCORGIE
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

2011 is coming to an end and it's time to maximize your personal tax situation before ringing in the New Year. Avoid giving Ebenezer Scrooge more tax than you need to.

First, determine your taxable income for 2011. If you cashed in RRSPs, sold an investment property, received a bonus or pay-out from an employer, your income will be different from your regular salary.

If you collected Employment Insurance (EI) and its associated benefits, tax withheld from EI is typically insufficient to cover your annual tax liability.

Don't get caught off guard by a major tax bill this spring. Meet with a tax advisor now to strategize ways to reduce your taxes. For the majority of Canadians, the most powerful way to reduce taxes is to contribute to an RRSP.

Second, the markets were a roller coaster in 2011 and many people are facing capital losses on their investments. Review your portfolio with a financial advisor to determine if you'd benefit from taking a loss or cashing in a gain.

Third, give money by December 31, 2011 and save big! If you give more than $200 you'll receive a 29 per cent federal credit instead of the 15 per cent credit for donations under $200. Donations also receive provincial credits.

Don't wait until the last day of 2011 to make an appointment with your financial advisor. Exploring ways to save on 2011 taxes now could save you a hefty tax bill next spring.

FOR LESLEY SCORGIE'S FULL COLUMN VISIT METRONEWS.CA

Revel in small pleasures

ON MONEY

ALISON GRIFFITHS
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

Taking a break, as I've just done for the past two weeks, is one of the hardest things about being a freelance writer and broadcaster. Anyone who is self-employed will nod in agreement.

For one thing, it's hard to turn down work — you don't know when the next job will come along or if a regular gig suddenly disappears.

The problem with never turning down work is that you rarely stop to smell the roses. While many of us in this situation love what we do, work should give us the opportunity to enjoy our lives.

Whether it's roses that excite you, sports, crafts or travel, our other interests are what feed our souls and keep us balanced in troubled times.

Recently, I've been stewing over the way a publication I've worked with for years has treated me. I wanted to rage and complain. Instead, I went for a run in the woods with my dogs and gloried in their enthusiasm. I'm still upset but my non-work interests helped ameliorate the blow.

After earning your paycheque, if you can do something that makes you happy or even just content, then the work has been worthwhile.

While I was off I took a friend to a rehab session after his knee replacement. I saved him a couple of hours travel time and had a nice visit. And I had a long phone conversation with another old friend whose uncle had recently died and she was trying to sort out his estate. The best part was enjoying the moment — seizing it in fact.

ISTOCK

▶ Alison's money rule: Earning money is important but not if you don't enjoy life outside work.

I also tried to revel in life's mundane routines, which often pass in a blur but can actually be pleasurable if you focus on them.

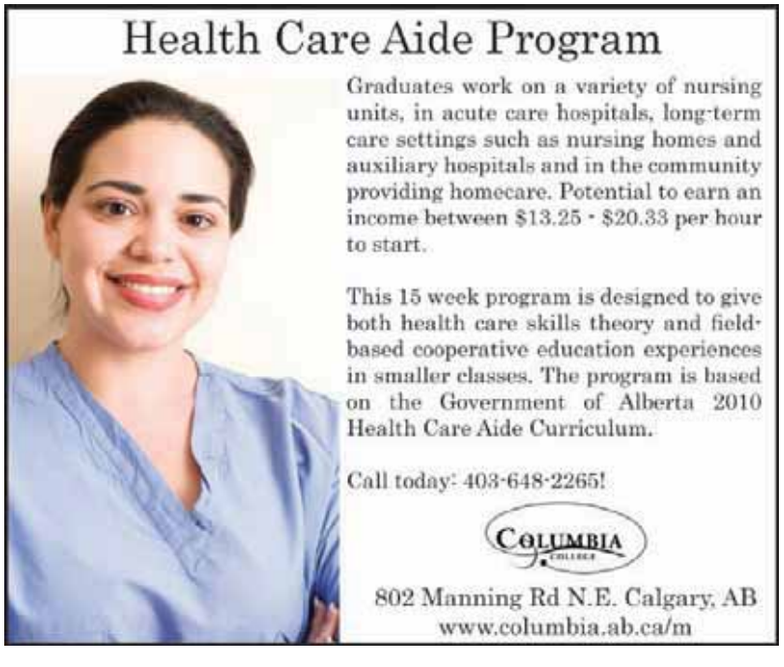
I cleared out some clutter, listened to a neighbour complain about his health problems, raked some leaves and hung up bungee cords that were in a tangled pile. Though I'm sorry to say the enjoyable routine magic didn't work with vacuuming.

It is the season of resolutions but rather than come up with things you should do or do better, direct your thoughts to your work and non-work life. Make the most out of each as best you can and feel good about the small things.

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF THE UPCOMING BOOK COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM.

6 most shoplifted items of the holiday season

As if this time of year wasn't stressful enough for retailers
'Tis the season for stealing filet mignon and AXE



The time of year sees plenty of merchandise fly off the shelves, whether it's paid for or not.

Scores of shoppers will pass through the doors of countless retailers, but one in 11 of them will walk out for something they swiped with a five-finger discount, according to the National Association of Shoplifting Prevention in the U.S.

Ad Week spoke to security professionals who named some of the most popular items for shoplifters.

1 Filet mignon
Luxury meat theft is up by 21 per cent, making grocery stores and markets the most common setting for shoplifting.

2 Jameson
Shockingly, people who love to steal also love to drink. Pricey liquor makes up about 2.9 per cent of stolen merchandise.

3 Electric tools
Shoplifters, though a sneaky breed, are also quite handy. DIY items are the third most popular category for thieves — think electric toothbrushes and power tools.

4 iPhone4
No surprise here — digital gadgets, in general, fly right off the shelves and right into pockets. Apple products are especially popular among shoplifters.

The iSteal phenomenon will see 100,000 laptops shoplifted this year from big-box retailers, according to the AJ Novick Group.

5 Gillette Mach 4 Razor blades
Shoplifters have discerning taste when it comes to a smooth, close shave. Not just any razor blade will do.

The $23 replacement packs and other shaving products make up 2.7 per cent of stolen items.

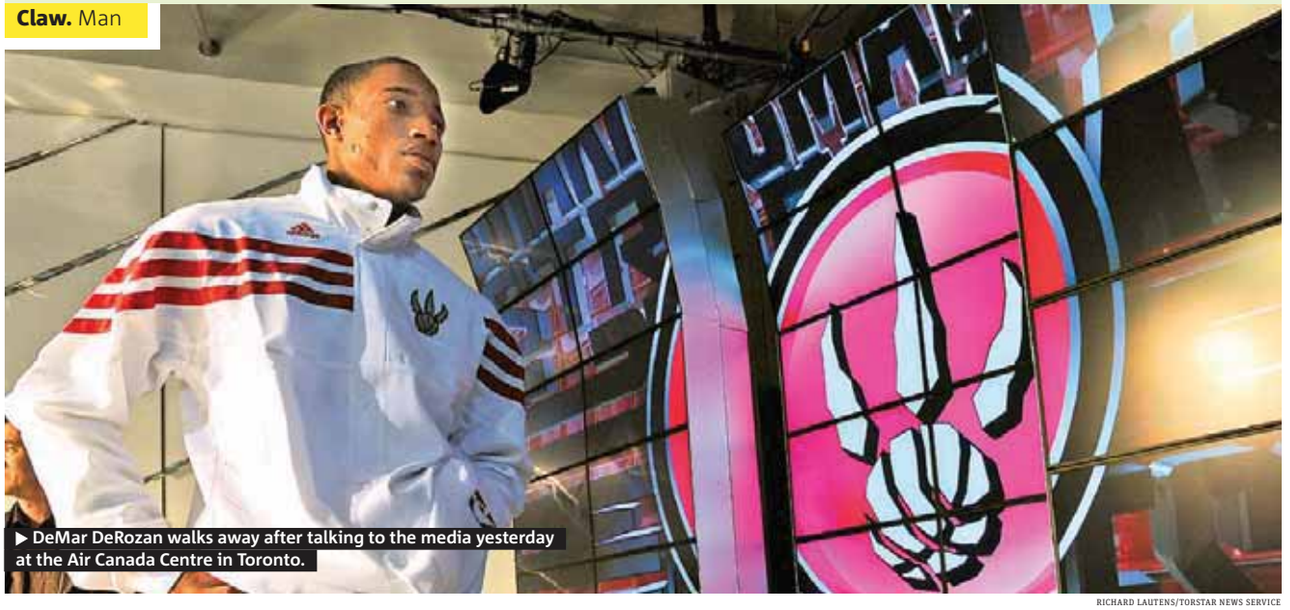
6 AXE
How dirty shoplifters get clean; for some reason, personal hygiene products like AXE are a hot-ticket item when it comes to theft — you might see them re-sold at flea markets.

METRO NEW YORK

ISTOCK

▶ Nothing beats the thrill of stuffing cold, raw meat down your pants.

Claw. Man



▶ DeMar DeRozan walks away after talking to the media yesterday at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Raptors roster coming together with intense schedule looming

The Raptors held their traditional media day yesterday ahead of what will be a far from traditional season, with 66 games crammed into four months on the heels of the NBA lockout. To bolster his young nucleus of DeMar DeRozan, Ed Davis and Amir Johnson, Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo has signed veterans Anthony Carter and Rasual Butler to go along with big men Aaron Gray and Toronto native Jamaal Magloire.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Uncertainty surrounds Sid again

Crosby suffers setback ◐ No word on timeline for Pittsburgh star's next return to ice

Sidney Crosby is back on the shelf — his comeback stalled indefinitely with concussion-like symptoms.

"Frustrating, I don't think that even describes it," Crosby told reporters.

Still the Pittsburgh Penguins star looked for positives yesterday, saying he is feeling "much, much better" than he did after being levelled by big hits in successive games Jan. 1 and Jan. 5 that triggered his 10-month absence from the game. He also said he felt worse only a few weeks before the Penguins training camp in mid-September.

"It's much different than previously going through that stuff," Crosby said. "I'm way better off than I was dealing with this stuff 10 months ago or whatever it was."

Still it's a setback for the NHL's biggest star, only three weeks removed from a spectacular comeback.

"I just figured it was better to be cautious here and not take any chances. That's kind of where I'm at right now," Crosby said.

"I'm not happy about watching. But I've got to make sure with these sort of things that I'm careful."

"(Crosby's) been away for so long, and was so happy to be playing with us again. It's been crazy. We've had a full team for only a couple of games."

PENGUINS GOALIE MARC-ANDRE FLEURY

Crosby's comeback appeared to be a success until he experienced headaches following a 3-1 loss to Boston on Dec. 5.

After sitting out a pair of road games as a precaution, Crosby was expected to return to practice yesterday.

Instead he sat out and told reporters that he won't practise or play until he is symptom-free. He wouldn't guess when that might be.

5

The season isn't even halfway over, and the Penguins have had five players sidelined by concussions: Sidney Crosby, Zybenek Michalek, Kris Letang Robert Bortozzo and Tyler Kennedy.

While Crosby absorbed several hits against the Bruins, including an elbow to the head from David Krejci, nothing appeared worrisome.

He developed headaches the next day and the Penguins decided to keep him home for last weekend's two-game road trip. When the headaches persisted throughout the weekend — Crosby acknowledged having symptoms — the Penguins weren't about to let him practise despite the absence of any test revealing a concussion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stampeders reach extension with Cornish: Source

The Calgary Stampeders have locked up Canadian-born tailback Jon Cornish.

A CFL source requesting anonymity said yesterday the Stampeders have signed the New Westminster, B.C., native to a contract extension. Team officials will make the announcement at a news conference today.

The five-foot-11, 205-pound Cornish enjoyed a breakout 2011 campaign. He replaced incumbent Joffrey Reynolds — Calgary's all-time rushing leader — in the starting lineup this year and finished fifth among CFL rushers with 863 yards.

But Cornish, who also ran for nine touchdowns, averaged an impressive 7.3 yards per carry and was Calgary's nominee for the CFL's outstanding Canadian award.

Cornish also added 26 catches for 385 yards and two TDs.

Cornish helped Calgary finish tied with Edmonton and B.C. atop the West Division standings with an 11-7 record. But the Stampeders were relegated to third following the season-ending tiebreakers.

Cornish capped his campaign by running for 127 yards on 14 carries (9.1-yard average) and a touchdown in Calgary's 33-19 loss to Edmonton in the West Division semifinal.

The 27-year-old was selected in the second round, 13th overall, by Calgary in the 2006 Canadian college draft. THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Flames preview

Calgary at Nashville
6 p.m.
TV: SNET

Calgary (14-13-2) looks to add to its winning streak against the Predators (14-11-4). The Flames have scored 13 goals as part of a three-game winning streak as they try to gain ground in the Northwest Division. Nashville has allowed only 36 shots against in its last two games, both wins. Pekka Rinne has allowed 13 goals in four starts this month. Jordin Tootoo had a goal and an assist in his return from a two-game suspension Saturday against Anaheim.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	28	18	7	2	1	101	81	39	8-4-1-1	10-3-1-0	7-3-0-0	W5
d-Boston	28	18	9	0	1	94	59	37	10-6-0-1	8-3-0-0	7-2-0-1	W1
d-Florida	30	16	9	2	3	82	77	37	6-2-1-3	10-7-1-0	5-3-2-0	L2
NY Rangers	27	17	6	1	3	83	60	38	8-2-0-2	9-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	30	17	9	2	2	94	75	38	8-2-2-0	9-7-0-2	6-3-1-0	W1
Toronto	**29**	**15**	**11**	**2**	**1**	**91**	**94**	**33**	**6-4-2-1**	**9-7-0-0**	**5-4-1-0**	**L2**
Buffalo	29	15	12	1	1	79	79	32	7-9-1-1	8-3-0-0	3-5-1-1	L1
Washington	28	15	12	0	1	88	89	31	10-4-0-1	5-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W2
New Jersey	29	15	13	0	1	76	84	31	6-5-0-1	9-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Montreal	30	12	11	2	5	74	77	31	4-5-2-4	8-6-0-1	2-3-2-3	W1
Winnipeg	29	13	12	3	1	82	92	30	9-4-0-0	4-8-3-1	6-3-1-0	L1
Ottawa	30	13	13	2	2	91	105	30	7-6-0-1	6-7-2-1	3-4-2-1	L3
Tampa Bay	30	12	16	0	2	79	101	26	7-5-0-0	5-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	L2
NY Islanders	27	9	12	4	2	62	88	24	6-7-3-0	3-5-1-2	4-3-2-1	L2
Carolina	31	9	18	2	2	79	108	22	5-9-0-2	4-9-2-0	2-8-0-0	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	30	20	7	2	1	79	64	43	10-4-1-0	10-3-1-1	8-2-0-0	W7
d-Chicago	30	18	8	1	3	99	92	40	9-2-0-3	9-6-1-0	6-3-0-1	W2
d-Dallas	28	16	11	0	1	73	78	33	9-4-0-1	7-7-0-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Detroit	28	18	9	1	0	89	62	37	12-2-1-0	6-7-0-0	8-2-0-0	W2
Vancouver	29	18	10	0	1	97	71	37	8-4-0-1	10-6-0-0	9-1-0-0	W4
St. Louis	29	17	9	0	3	71	62	37	11-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	7-2-0-1	W3
Phoenix	29	15	11	1	2	77	76	33	6-6-1-1	9-5-0-1	5-5-0-0	L2
San Jose	27	15	10	2	0	75	64	32	8-6-1-0	7-4-1-0	4-5-1-0	L2
Nashville	29	14	11	3	1	77	79	32	5-5-2-1	9-6-1-0	4-6-0-0	W2
Edmonton	30	14	13	0	3	83	80	31	9-5-0-2	5-8-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Calgary	29	14	13	1	1	73	80	30	8-5-1-1	6-8-0-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Los Angeles	29	13	12	2	2	65	67	30	8-9-0-1	5-3-2-1	3-6-1-0	L4
Colorado	30	13	16	1	0	78	91	27	7-9-0-0	6-7-1-0	4-6-0-0	L3
Anaheim	29	8	16	2	3	67	95	21	6-9-1-0	2-7-1-3	2-7-1-0	L2
Columbus	29	8	17	1	3	71	99	20	5-8-1-1	3-9-0-2	3-4-2-1	L2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's result
New Jersey 5 Tampa Bay 4
Sunday's results
Chicago 3 San Jose 2 (OT)
N.Y. Rangers 6 Florida 1
Saturday's results
Calgary 3 Edmonton 0
Montreal 2 New Jersey 1
Vancouver 4 Ottawa 1
Boston 5 Columbus 3
Dallas 2 Los Angeles 1
Detroit 7 Winnipeg 1
Minnesota 4 Phoenix 1
Nashville 3 Anaheim 2
N.Y. Rangers 4 Buffalo 1
Philadelphia 5 Tampa Bay 2
Pittsburgh 6 N.Y. Islanders 3
St. Louis 1 San Jose 0
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Los Angeles at Boston, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Carolina at **Toronto**, 7 p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Boston at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	16	23	39
Kessel, Tor	18	18	36
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	22	34
Stamkos, TB	18	15	33
Lupul, Tor	13	20	33
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	25	33
Toews, Chi	17	15	32
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	13	19	32
Backstrom, Wash	11	21	32
Sharp, Chi	16	15	31
Versteeg, Fla	13	18	31
Ma.Hossa, Chi	12	19	31
Eberle, Edm	11	20	31
Pominville, Buf	10	21	31
P.Kane, Chi	8	23	31
Fleischmann, Fla	12	18	30
Weiss, Fla	11	19	30
Vanek, Buf	14	15	29
Selanne, Ana	9	20	29
Neal, Pgh	17	11	28
Franzen, Det	13	15	28
Kopitar, LA	10	18	28
Malkin, Pgh	10	18	28
Spezza, Ott	9	19	28
Datsyuk, Det	8	20	28
Hartnell, Pha	14	12	26
Seguin, Bos	13	13	26
Smyth, Edm	12	14	26
M.Koivu, Minn	7	19	26
Gaborik, NYR	15	10	25
Vrbata, Phx	14	11	25
B.Richards, NYR	11	14	25
Filpula, Det	10	15	25
Ra.Whitney, Phx	10	15	25
Karlsson, Ott	2	23	25
Michalek, Ott	18	6	24
E.Kane, Wpg	15	9	24
Perry, Ana	12	12	24
Skinner, Car	12	12	24
Jagr, Pha	10	14	24
Elias, NJ	9	15	24
Benn, Dal	7	17	24
Plekanec, Mtl	6	18	24
B.Campbell, Fla	2	22	24
Lucic, Bos	10	13	23
Briere, Pha	9	14	23
Tavares, NYI	9	14	23
Henrique, NJ	7	16	23
Prospal, Clb	7	16	23
J.Thornton, SJ	5	18	23
Parenteau, NYI	4	19	23
Moulson, NYI	14	8	22
Eriksson, Dal	10	12	22
Dupuis, Pgh	9	13	22
Parise, NJ	9	13	22
St. Louis, TB	9	13	22
C.Smith, Nash	8	14	22
Getzlaf, Ana	6	16	22
M.Bergeron, TB	3	19	22
Callahan, NYR	12	9	21
Pavelski, SJ	12	9	21
Iginla, Cal	11	10	21
Lecavalier, TB	11	10	21

GOLF

WORLD RANKING

Through Dec. 11

1. Luke Donald	ENG	10.29
2. Rory McIlroy	NIR	8.00
3. Lee Westwood	ENG	7.81
4. Martin Kaymer	GER	6.78
5. Adam Scott	AUS	5.66
6. Steve Stricker	USA	5.56
7. Dustin Johnson	USA	5.48
8. Jason Day	AUS	5.23
9. Webb Simpson	USA	5.15
10. Matt Kuchar	USA	4.90
11. Charl Schwartzel	SAF	4.88
12. Nick Watney	USA	4.86
13. Graeme McDowell	NIR	4.72
14. Phil Mickelson	USA	4.68
15. K.J. Choi	KOR	4.46
16. Sergio Garcia	ESP	4.01
17. Justin Rose	ENG	3.99
18. Hunter Mahan	USA	3.90
19. Paul Casey	ENG	3.87
20. Bubba Watson	USA	3.83
21. Alvaro Quiros	ESP	3.79
22. Tiger Woods	USA	3.69
23. Robert Karlsson	SWE	3.68
24. Kyung-Tae Kim	KOR	3.62
25. David Toms	USA	3.61
26. Bill Haas	USA	3.53
27. Bo Van Pelt	USA	3.48
28. Ian Poulter	ENG	3.46
29. Rickie Fowler	USA	3.35
30. Keegan Bradley	USA	3.34
31. Sang-Moon Bae	KOR	3.33
32. Jason Dufner	USA	3.31
33. Simon Dyson	ENG	3.30
34. Anders Hansen	DEN	3.21
35. Zach Johnson	USA	3.21
36. Thomas Bjorn	DEN	3.20
37. Brandt Snedeker	USA	3.19
38. Louis Oosthuizen	SAF	3.18
39. Francesco Molinari	ITA	3.17
40. Fredrik Jacobson	SWE	3.15
41. Peter Hanson	SWE	3.06
42. Geoff Ogilvy	AUS	3.04
43. Miguel Angel Jimenez	ESP	2.98
44. Y.E. Yang	KOR	2.94
45. John Senden	AUS	2.92
46. Darren Clarke	NIR	2.89
47. Martin Laird	SCO	2.87
48. Jim Furyk	USA	2.87
49. Aaron Baddeley	AUS	2.87
50. Ryo Ishikawa	JPN	2.81

NFL

WEEK 14

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	208
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	246	259
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
St. Louis	2	11	0	.154	153	326

x-clinched playoff spot; **y**-clinched division
Last night's result
Seattle 30 St. Louis 13
Sunday's results
New Orleans 22 Tennessee 17
Baltimore 24 Indianapolis 10
N.Y. Jets 37 Kansas City 10
Detroit 34 Minnesota 28
Houston 20 Cincinnati 19
Jacksonville 41 Tampa Bay 14
Atlanta 31 Carolina 23
Philadelphia 26 Miami 10
New England 34 Washington 27
Arizona 21 San Francisco 19
Denver 13 Chicago 10 (OT)
San Diego 37 Buffalo 10
Green Bay 46 Oakland 16
N.Y. Giants 37 Dallas 34
Thursday's result
Pittsburgh 14 Cleveland 3

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man City	15	12	2	1	49	15	38
Man United	15	11	3	1	35	14	36
Tottenham	14	10	1	3	30	18	31
Chelsea	15	10	1	4	33	18	31
Arsenal	15	9	2	4	31	23	29
Liverpool	15	7	5	3	18	13	26
Newcastle	15	7	5	3	21	19	26
Stoke	15	6	3	6	16	24	21
Aston Villa	15	4	7	4	18	19	19
Norwich	15	5	4	6	24	28	19
Swansea	15	4	5	6	16	20	17
Everton	14	5	1	8	15	18	16
QPR	15	4	4	7	15	26	16
Fulham	15	3	6	6	16	18	15
West Brom	15	4	3	8	14	23	15
Sunderland	15	3	5	7	18	18	14
Wolverhampton	15	4	2	9	16	28	14
Wigan	15	3	3	9	14	29	12
Blackburn	15	2	4	9	22	34	10
Bolton	15	3	0	12	20	36	9

Yesterday's result
Chelsea 2 Manchester City 1
Sunday's result
Stoke 2 Tottenham 1
Sunderland 2 Blackburn 1
Saturday's results
Arsenal 1 Everton 0
Bolton 1 Aston Villa 2
Liverpool 1 Queens Park Rangers 0
Manchester United 4 Wolverhampton 1
Norwich 4 Newcastle 2
Swansea 2 Fulham 0
West Bromwich Albion 1 Wigan 2

ITALY

SERIE A

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Juventus	14	8	6	0	25	11	30
Udinese	14	9	3	2	18	7	30
AC Milan	14	8	4	2	31	16	28
Lazio	14	8	4	2	22	11	28
Napoli	14	5	6	3	22	14	21
Palermo	14	6	2	6	16	16	20
Genoa	13	5	3	5	16	16	18
Cagliari	14	4	6	4	12	13	18
Roma	14	5	3	6	16	18	18
Catania	14	4	6	4	15	20	18
Inter Milan	13	5	2	6	16	18	17
Parma	14	5	1	8	15	20	17
x-Atalanta	14	5	7	2	17	16	16
Fiorentina	14	4	5	5	13	13	16
Chievo Verona	14	4	4	6	11	18	16
Bologna	14	4	3	7	13	20	15
Siena	14	3	5	6	14	14	14
Cesena	14	3	3	8	7	15	12
Novara	14	2	5	7	14	25	11
Lecce	14	2	2	10	13	26	8

x — penalized six points in betting scandal.
Yesterday's results
Roma 1 Juventus 1
Sunday's results
Atalanta 1 Catania 1
Bologna 2 AC Milan 2
Cagliari 0 Parma 0
Novara 1 Napoli 1
Udinese 2 Chievo Verona 1
Saturday's results
Inter Milan 2 Fiorentina 0
Lecce 2 Lazio 3
Palermo 0 Cesena 1
Siena 0 Genoa 2
Today's game
Inter Milan at Genoa

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT TIGERS—Failed to offer a contract to 2B Will Rhymes, making him a free agent.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jerome Williams on a one-year contract.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Sent SS Pedro Florimon outright to Rochester (IL). Named Gene Glynn manager and Tom Brunansky coach for Rochester; Stu Cliburn pitching coach and Rudy Hernandez coach for New Britain (EL); and Ivan Arteaga pitching coach of Elizabethton (Appalachian).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Claimed RHP Jim Hoey off waivers from Minnesota. Sent C Brian Jeroloman and RHP Drew Carpenter outright to Las Vegas (PCL). Designated RHP Jesse Chavez for assignment.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

COLORADO ROCKIES—Agreed to terms with C Ramon Hernandez on a two-year contract.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with SS Alex Gonzalez on a one-year contract.
NEW YORK METS—Claimed RHP Jeremy Hefner off waivers from Pittsburgh. Signed LHP Garrett Olson and C Lucas May to minor league contracts.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Traded OF Ben Francisco to Toronto for LHP Frank Gailey.
American Association
LINCOLN SALTDOGS—Signed LHP Thomas Palica.

NBA

CHICAGO BULLS—Re-signed F Brian Scalabrine.
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Re-signed G Anthony Parker. Waived forward J.P. Prince.
DALLAS MAVERICKS—Re-signed F Brian Cardinal.
DETROIT PISTONS—Waived G Richard Hamilton.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Signed F Derrick Williams.
TORONTO RAPTORS—Agreed to terms with G Anthony Carter.

NFL

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Fired coach Todd Haley. Named Romeo Crennel interim coach.
MIAMI DOLPHINS—Fired coach Tony Sparano. Named Todd Bowles interim coach.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Placed WR Stephen Burton on injured reserve. Signed WR Emmanuel Arceneaux from the practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Placed LB Jacob Cutrera and DT John McCargo on injured reserve. Signed DT Frank Okam from the practice squad. Released RB Nic Grigsby from the practice squad.

CFL

TORONTO ARGONAUTS—Acquired QB Ricky Ray from Edmonton for QB Steven Jyles, K Grant Shaw and a 2012 first-round draft pick.

NHL

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Assigned F Ben Smith to Rockford (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Activated RW Cam Janssen from injured reserve. Placed D Anton Volchenkov on injured reserve.
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Sent F Micheal Haley to Bridgeport (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Agreed to terms with F Antti Miettinen on a two-year contract. Recalled D Evan Oberg from Norfolk (AHL).

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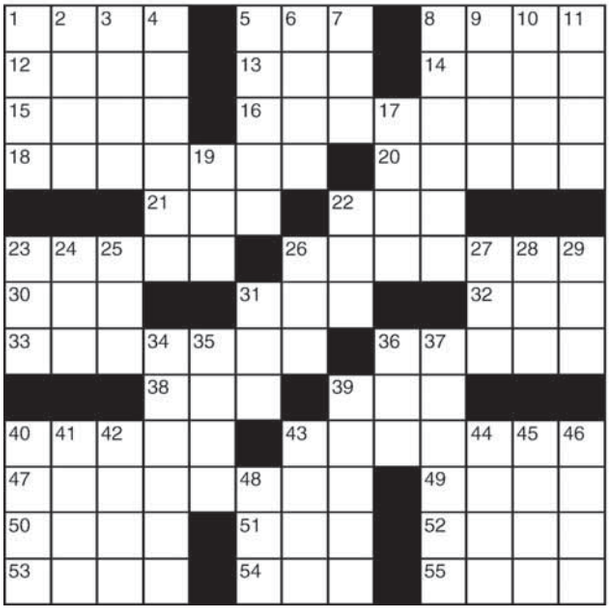
Crossword



Across
1 Double agent
5 Sis' sib
8 Havana's country
12 Pre-diploma hurdle
13 Scarlet
14 October birthstone
15 Withered
16 Firewood supports
18 Humanlike robot
20 Apartment-complex unit
21 Pistol
22 Half-score
23 Rags-to-riches author
26 Moderately slow in music
30 Arthur or Lillie
31 Pismire
32 Physicist Georg
33 Pyrenees principality
36 Refuges
38 Chinese cook's vessel
39 Matterhorn, e.g.
40 Prince William's mother
43 Massachusetts city
47 Pamela or Loni
49 Strong wind
50 Use a teaspoon
51 Blackbird
52 Gaelic
53 Red — (candy)
54 Tiny
55 Kept watch on

Down
1 Small plateau
2 Yoked team
3 Fat
4 Come out
5 Gray matter
6 Tear
7 Peculiar
8 Ring around the sun
9 "Once — a time"
10 Musical combo
11 As well
17 On the rocks
19 "— Town"
22 Explosive letters
23 Lawyers' org.
24 Cariou of Broadway
25 Wander about
26 Literary collection
27 Ph. bk. info
28 Winnie — Pooh
29 Type measures
31 Noah's boat
34 Deed holders
35 Bellow
36 On in years
37 Farthest point in an orbit
39 "Tomorrow" tyke
40 Morse morsel
41 Grooving on
42 Mine entrance
43 Top-notch
44 Change
45 Otherwise
46 Saxophone need
48 Witnessed

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	L	A	V		P	R	Y		O	H	M	S
L	A	C	E		O	N	E		B	O	I	L
O	V	E	N		P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E
B	A	D	E	G	G		I	N	R	O	A	D
			E	R	R	S		N	O	R		
P	A	T	R	I	O	T	S		N	E	I	L
U	G	H		M	U	R	A	L		E	W	E
N	O	R	M		P	A	T	E	R	S	O	N
		E	A	R		P	U	C	E			
S	T	A	T	U	E		R	H	E	S	U	S
P	A	T	T	E	R	E	D		F	I	R	E
A	L	E	E		A	L	A		E	D	G	E
M	E	N	D		S	K	Y		R	E	E	K

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	5		7	6	9		1	
1								9
		7				8		
6	4		5		8		7	1
				9				
9	2		3		1		8	4
		4				1		
7								2
	8		2	1	3		6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	6	1	3	9	8	5	2	7
3	8	7	5	4	2	1	9	6
5	2	9	1	7	6	3	8	4
6	3	8	7	2	9	4	1	5
2	7	4	6	1	5	9	3	8
1	9	5	4	8	3	6	7	2
8	1	2	9	6	4	7	5	3
7	5	6	8	3	1	2	4	9
9	4	3	2	5	7	8	6	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

To Peaches
Hello — the Peaches I have written to (in vain it seems) probably wouldn't address as "Howdie". Also, he would likely not contact me at all, as is angry & it's complicated. Peaches, AKA Petal. I'm done trying anyway. Sorry for any confusion.
FROM ME

Oi!
Jeez you're cute! I honestly can't say that enough times. Someday I'll be the one planting kisses on those adorable cheeks.
FROM CAPTAIN

Matty
Where have you been? I haven't seen you for 3 days now. I miss seeing your face. I hope to see you tomorrow.
FROM R

A look at the weather

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Min -13° Max -7°	Min -9° Max -6°	Min -13° Max -4°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 5:30 A.M.**

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 The truth must be told and you are the one who must do the telling.
♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Your attitude will harden today and you will refuse to make the changes that others demand.
♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Spell out what it is you are planning to do over the next few days and make sure everyone knows that you are serious about your ambitions.
♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Let certain people know that you will no longer do their bidding.
♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You're allowed to change your mind, and you're allowed to change your ambitions too.
♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 It will be easier for you to explain what you have been up to in recent weeks.
♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You will find it ridiculously easy to get people to do what you desire today.
♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The best way to win others round to your big idea is to come up with so many facts and figures that they simply cannot deny that you know what you are talking about.
♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about something you have been putting off for weeks or months.
♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Don't let worries and fears get the better of you.
♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you cannot handle something alone, ask for assistance.
♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You will find it quite easy to get your message across to employers and other important people today.
SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS/AP

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You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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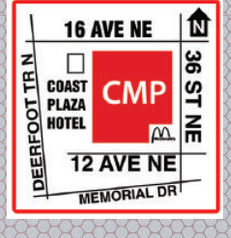

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